



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION PEST PROGRAM

ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #22.05– MAY 23, 2022

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VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 24

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will be holding a press conference regarding Asian giant hornet response plans for 2022. WSDA entomologist Sven Spichiger will give an update for the upcoming season. He will also be available to take questions from the press. [Members of the press can click here to register for the conference.](#)

Members of the public can watch the live broadcast on our YouTube Channel. [Click here to view the conference.](#)

HORNETS ACROSS THE GLOBE

WSDA is working with researchers around the globe to gather and sequence hornet DNA. The goal of this research is to better understand the genetic makeup of the Washington population. The results will help scientists more fully understand the hornets' spread and determine possible routes of introduction.

WSDA recently received 25 dead hornet specimens from a collaborator in Japan. Scientists from WSDA's molecular diagnostics lab removed tissue from each hornet to extract its DNA. This DNA will be sequenced and added to the data set.



CITIZEN SCIENCE UPDATE

Citizens provide crucial detections each year when monitoring for Asian giant hornets. Over the past two years, Washington has participated in a spring queen visual survey and a trapping program. WSDA will be adding an [Adopt A Wasp Nest program](#) in June. This project will ask citizens to commit to registering and checking paper wasp nests for wasp and hornet activity. [Click here to view the hornet's response citizen scientist projects.](#)



TRAPPING

Learn how to build a hornet trap and report your catches to WSDA. Citizen scientist hornet trapping is conducted from July through November.

TRAPPING



ADOPT A WASP

Commit to checking paper wasp nests for wasp and hornet activity. Paper wasp nest observations take place June through October.

ADOPT A WASP



SPRING QUEEN VISUAL SURVEY

Look for and report Asian giant hornet queen emerging in the spring. The spring queen visual survey occurs in April and May.

QUEEN SURVEY

NEW DETECTIONS

There have been no confirmed sightings of Asian giant hornets reported to WSDA in 2022.



It is still important to be on the lookout: dead or alive, AGH reports are helpful. If you think you have seen a hornet, [report it online](#), email at hornets@agr.wa.gov, or call 1-800-443-6684. Include a photo if you can safely obtain one.

STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information on Asian giant hornets.

- View [past news releases, blogs, and Pest Program updates](#) about Asian giant hornet.
- Join the [Asian giant hornet Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).